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PATENT
5181-70000/P5196

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/653,609
Filed: August 31, 2000
Inventors:
Slaughter, et al.

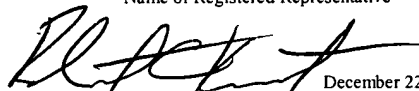
Examiner: Abrishamkar, Kaveh
Group/Art Unit: 2131
Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-70000

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR SECURE MESSAGE-
BASED LEASING OF
RESOURCES IN A
DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING
ENVIRONMENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Name of Registered Representative


Signature

December 22, 2004
Date

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF
SEPTEMBER 22, 2004**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of September 22, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.